

Serial No. 10/698,025

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown.

As amended, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus comprising:
a container containing a pharmaceutical formulation, the pharmaceutical formulation comprising an active agent and the container further containing a first pressurizer comprising a fluid propellant;
a metering chamber in communication with the container, the metering chamber adapted to hold a metered amount of the pharmaceutical formulation;
a valve to allow the metered amount of the pharmaceutical formulation to be released from the metering chamber when the valve is actuated; and
a second pressurizer that acts together with the first pressurizer to apply applies pressure to the pharmaceutical formulation in the metering chamber while the pharmaceutical formulation is being released from the metering chamber,
wherein the metering chamber is sized so that at least 2 mg of the active agent is be aerosolized for delivery to a user during inhalation.
2. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second pressurizer changes the volume of the metering chamber.
3. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second pressurizer decreases the volume of the metering chamber.
4. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second pressurizer changes the volume of the metering chamber and wherein the aerosolization apparatus further comprises a mechanism for returning the metering chamber to its original volume following actuation.

Serial No. 10/698,025

5. (Original) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the metering chamber is sized so that at least 3 mg of the active agent is be aerosolized for delivery to a user during inhalation.
6. (Original) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the metering chamber is sized so that at least 5 mg of the active agent is be aerosolized for delivery to a user during inhalation.
7. (Original) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the metering chamber is adapted to contain a volume of the pharmaceutical formulation of at least 50 μ l prior to actuation of the valve.
8. (Original) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the metering chamber is adapted to contain a volume of the pharmaceutical formulation of at least 150 μ l prior to actuation of the valve.
9. (Original) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the metering chamber is adapted to contain a volume of the pharmaceutical formulation of at least 300 μ l prior to actuation of the valve.
10. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical formulation comprises a powder, and a particle size distribution of pressurizer is arranged so that at least 50% of the aerosol particles generated have a is at least about 50% having a diametric size of from 0.1 μ m to 10 μ m.
11. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 10 wherein the ~~pressurizer is arranged so that~~ at least 80% of the aerosol particles generated have a diametric size of from 0.1 μ m to 10 μ m.

Serial No. 10/698,025

12. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second pressurizer comprises a plunger that is capable of changing the volume of the metering chamber.

13. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second pressurizer comprises a plunger that is capable of changing the volume of the metering chamber, wherein the plunger is adapted to be pressurized by the pressure of the pharmaceutical formulation within the container.

14. (Withdrawn) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the pressurizer comprises a flexible wall of the metering chamber.

15. (Withdrawn) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the pressurizer comprises a flexible wall of the metering chamber, wherein the flexible wall is adapted to be pressurized by the pressure of the pharmaceutical formulation within the container.

16. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second pressurizer comprises a source of pressurized gas.

17. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second pressurizer comprises a source of pressurized gas, wherein the source of pressurized gas is within the container.

18. (Withdrawn) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the pressurizer comprises a bi-stable member movable between a first position and a second position and wherein the pressure within the metering chamber is increased when the bi-stable member moves to the second position.

19. (Withdrawn) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the bi-stable member comprises a bi-stable dome.

Serial No. 10/698,025

20. (Withdrawn) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the bi-stable member comprises an interior surface in communication with the metering chamber and an exterior surface in communication with the interior of the container.

21-25 (Cancelled).

26. (Withdrawn) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the pressurizer comprises a flexible wall of the metering chamber, wherein the flexible wall is adapted to be pressurized by the pressure of the pharmaceutical formulation within the container.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Withdrawn) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the pressurizer comprises a bi-stable member movable between a first position and a second position and wherein the pressure within the metering chamber is increased when the bi-stable member moves to the second position.

29. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus comprising:
a container containing a pharmaceutical formulation, the pharmaceutical formulation comprising insulin and the container further containing a first pressurizer comprising a fluid a propellant;

a metering chamber in communication with the container, the metering chamber adapted to hold a metered amount of the pharmaceutical formulation;

a valve to allow the metered amount of the pharmaceutical formulation to be released from the container when the valve is actuated; and

a second pressurizer that acts together with the first pressurizer to apply applies pressure to the pharmaceutical formulation in the metering chamber while the pharmaceutical formulation is released from the metering chamber.

Serial No. 10/698,025

30. (Currently Amended) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 29 wherein the second pressurizer comprises a plunger that is capable of changing the volume of the metering chamber, wherein the plunger is adapted to be pressurized by the pressure of the pharmaceutical formulation within the container.

31. (Withdrawn) An aerosolization apparatus according to claim 29 herein the pressurizer comprises a bi-stable member movable between a first position and a second position and wherein the pressure within the metering chamber is increased when the bi-stable member moves to the second position.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of aerosolizing a pharmaceutical formulation, the method comprising:

containing a pharmaceutical formulation in a container, the pharmaceutical formulation comprising an active agent and a propellant, the propellant comprising a first pressurizer;

metering an amount of the pharmaceutical formulation [[in]] into a metering chamber in communication with the container;

releasing the pharmaceutical formulation from the metering chamber ~~when a valve is actuated~~; and

applying pressure within the metering chamber with a second pressurizer during the release of the pharmaceutical formulation,

wherein at least 2 mg of the active agent is be aerosolized for delivery to a user during inhalation.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 32 wherein the pressure is ~~added~~ applied to the metering chamber by decreasing the volume of the metering chamber.

34. (Original) A method according to claim 32 wherein at least 3 mg of the active agent is aerosolized for delivery to a user during inhalation.

Serial No. 10/698,025

35. (Original) A method according to claim 32 wherein at least 5 mg of the active agent is aerosolized for delivery to a user during inhalation.
36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 32 wherein ~~at least 50% of the pharmaceutical formulation comprises a powder, and a particle size distribution of aerosol particles generated have a~~ is at least about 50% having a diametric size of from 0.1 μm to 10 μm .
37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[32]]~~ 36 wherein at least 80% of the aerosol particles generated have a diametric size of from 0.1 μm to 10 μm .
38. (Original) A method according to claim 32 wherein the pressure is applied by a plunger.
39. (Original) A method according to claim 32 wherein the pressure is applied by a plunger, wherein the plunger is adapted to be pressurized by the pressure of the pharmaceutical formulation within the container.
40. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 32 wherein the pressure is applied by a flexible wall of the metering chamber, wherein the flexible wall is pressurized by the pressure of the pharmaceutical formulation within the container.
41. (Original) A method according to claim 32 wherein the pressure is applied from a source of pressurized gas.
42. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 32 wherein the pressure is applied by a bi-stable member movable between a first position and a second position and wherein the pressure within the metering chamber is increased when the bi-stable member moves to the second position.

Serial No. 10/698,025

43. (Currently Amended) A method of aerosolizing an insulin formulation, the method comprising:

containing a pharmaceutical formulation in a container, the pharmaceutical formulation comprising insulin and a propellant, the propellant comprising a first pressurizing means;

metering an amount of the pharmaceutical formulation in a metering chamber in communication with the container;

releasing the pharmaceutical formulation from the metering chamber ~~when a valve is actuated~~; and

applying pressure, with a second pressurizing means, within the metering chamber during the release of the pharmaceutical formulation.

44. (Original) A method according to claim 43 wherein at least 2 mg of insulin is aerosolized for delivery to a user.

45. (Original) A method according to claim 43 wherein at least 3 mg of insulin is aerosolized for delivery to a user.

46. (Original) A method according to claim 43 wherein at least 5 mg of insulin is aerosolized for delivery to a user.

47. (Original) A method according to claim 43 wherein the pressure is applied by a plunger, wherein the plunger is adapted to be pressurized by the pressure of the pharmaceutical formulation within the container.

48. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 43 wherein the pressure is applied by a flexible wall of the metering chamber, wherein the flexible wall is pressurized by the pressure of the pharmaceutical formulation within the container.

49. (Original) A method according to claim 43 wherein the pressure is applied from a source of pressurized gas.

Serial No. 10/698,025

50. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 43 wherein the pressure is applied by a bi-stable member movable between a first position and a second position and wherein the pressure within the metering chamber is increased when the bi-stable member moves to the second position.